

# THE SYNDICALIST

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WHOLE No. 52

## The Passing Show

### MONEY VS. MAN.

Labor is the most courageous animal on earth—sometimes. When it is pushed hard it will fight desperately, and the size of the opposing force doesn't seem to matter. The Steel Trust is the biggest monster that inhabits the world of capitalism, and is heartless in proportion to its size. It thinks no more of the workers than it does of any other cheap and easily gotten commodity. It watches with delicate care its mules and other four-legged beasts, for each is so much capital invested. But to the human beasts who created the vast wealth it holds, no consideration is extended. They represent no investment; they are a free gift from the Almighty, sent down to serve the custodians of his footstool.

Naturally the trust gentlemen, the patrons of art, whose classic eyes love to gaze on the Venus of Milo, abhor the sight, or even the thought of a grimy mill worker; naturally these cultured gentlemen repel his gruff advances; naturally they repudiate his vain pretenses to manhood and independence; naturally they treat him as they would a mangy dog who came sniffing around their heels.

On the other hand, it is just as natural that the grimy toiler should reach the limit of endurance and rebel, so far as he has the power of resistance left. He is an ugly beast, this chap, when once thoroughly aroused, vastly more dangerous to the existing order of things than the velvet-handed gentlemen imagine. He will submit more supinely to oppression than any other beast, but he is equally more vicious when aroused to active resistance.

### Destroying Craft Unions.

Having vast resources and power, unequalled in the history of the world, these gentlemen of the Steel Trust fancy they have an easy thing of it in subduing the mill workers. Indeed, the trust thought it had them crushed beyond all semblance of resistance already, and if by destroying a union the job could be done, the trust was right in its calculations.

But, fortunately, a union is a transitory tool that may die in a day and be born again on the morrow, a stronger and a healthier infant. The Steel Trust crushed the old steel workers' union that was built on the old craft plan, where the high-priced puddlers and rollers dominated and the low-paid workers, who needed its help the most, played second fiddle. The aristocracy of wealth was plainly visible in this organization. It was conducted on Steel Trust lines. It may have been well that such a union met its Waterloo.

The skeleton of the union is still in existence, but greatly modified. The Syndicalists pierced the bubble of inequality at the last convention and prepared the way for making it a real up-to-date industrial fighting union. Of course, if the trust had not previously beaten it up, the revolutionists would not have made such an impression on it. But such is the irony of progress—the old dies to make way for the new. The old unionism died with

the old organization of capitalism. The trust crushed both of them. It is now in order—yea, absolutely necessary—that the new unionism be born to cope with the trust.

Syndicalism is the new unionism, evolved, not out of a thinker's brain, but, like the trust, out of the experience of the age. The Steel Trust dollars all roll to one heap; let the steel workers all gather in one union. Then the real contest of the age will begin—Money vs. Man. I have no fear of the outcome. Man has ever conquered, even his most powerful fetiches.

### EVIDENCE OF LEGAL SLAVERY.

A \$750,000 damage suit has been instituted by the coal barons of West Virginia against the mine workers' union. The "damage" consisted in keeping the miners out of the mines when they didn't want to stay there, for encouraging them to strike, and supporting them while on strike.

The coal barons could have robbed the miners of that amount did the latter remain loyal, honest slaves and stick to their jobs instead of going on strike. You see, the coal barons have a property right in the labor of the miners, and whoever aids and abets in depriving them of the free use of their property is legally responsible.

If the miner's labor belonged to him he could use it or not, as he chose; he could withdraw it or give it to whom he pleased, and no one could legally interfere with him. He could withdraw his property, which is himself, from the mines, and he could persuade other miners from disposing of their property to these coal barons. And even did the striking miners use violence to intimidate other miners from selling their labor, the action could be taken only by the latter, based on the allegation that they had sustained damages to their property by being prevented from disposing of it to the coal barons.

Having no property right in either the striker or the scab, where would the coal barons' suit come in? But the lawyers will attempt to confuse the matter by claiming the coal barons were deprived of using their property in the mines, which is clearly not so. No strikers ever attempted to stop a baron from going into the mines to dig coal. They'd be glad to help him down. It is with the labor of other men the coal barons have been prevented from operating their mines, and if they have no property rights in the labor of these other men, where is the basis for the \$750,000 damage suit?

### A SPRY REACTIONARY.

Here is a bit of pessimism that is really delightful. The speaker is Spry, the new governor of Utah, and the occasion of his mouthing was his inauguration. It was a kind of outline of the progressive policy of the new administration. He says:

We are mistaking mutiny for independence; muckraking for progress, and yellow journalism for a fearless press. Demagogues are masquerading in the garments of statesmen, and

the clamor of their noisy followers has drowned the voice of reason. The red flag of anarchy heads the procession, and dynamite is substituted for justice. The constitution is challenged, law defied, and judges are threatened with recall and removal if they dare face the crazy mob.

But, hold on, governor! Who is the political boss of this country—theoretically, I mean? Look up the report of your campaign speeches and you will see it's this "crazy mob." "The people," "the sovereign people," you called them in your pre-election prattle. Isn't it to this "crazy mob" you owe your fine job? Ain't you theoretically their servant? And if it is boss can't it wipe its feet on the flag, light the kitchen stove with the constitution, dynamite the hall of justice, and raise the red flag over the ruins? In a word, can't it do as it damn pleases? And what are you and your little bunch of standpatters going to do about it?

### ANOTHER REVOLUTION.

"Anarchy and destruction of property similar to that which occurred in the French revolution will prevail in this country unless the present trend of politics is checked," declared former Senator Joseph W. Bailey in an address at the annual banquet of the Pennsylvania Bankers' Association.

Bunk, Bailey, bunk. The present trend of politics is not going to lead anywhere, unless standpatter politicians like yourself, for instance, intend to start something. I admit the "trend" is disastrous to you and Lobster Ted, and barrels of other bunk peddlers who had become so highly inflated with your own importance in the world as to think it would change its course and turn backward at your command. Discovering that the world is obstinate enough to keep on in its course, and ungrateful enough to set you down by the wayside, you shout your little curse at it as it marches on triumphantly, leaving your dainty little feet dangling in the ditch.

But that's all it amounts to, Joe, politically. Economically? Ah, that's another question. But you are a dealer in bunk, Bailey, bunk.

JAY FOX.

### OPPRESSION WILL FORCE YOUR HAND.

Clarence S. Darrow concluded an address before the California Building Trades Council convention with the following sentence: "The more they oppress you, the sooner you will win."

That is to say: The harder they put the boots into you, the deeper they sink the bayonet into your calloused hide, the more of you they railroad to the penitentiary, the more of you that are shot up by their hired assassins, the more widows and orphans that are left in want and misery, the higher they run up the high cost of living, the lower they press down the low wages they give you, the more of you they force to enlist in the army of the unemployed, the more gunmen they confront your strike pickets with, the higher they build the stockades around the scabs, the more they increase the army and navy and militia and police and spies—in a word, the more material becomes the evidence of your enslavement the sooner you will strike the blow that will make you free.

# THE SYNDICALIST

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Freedom has a thousand charms to show,  
That slaves, howe'er contented, never know.  
—Cowper.

## JEWISH REPORTERS STRIKE

As mentioned in our last issue, two of the New York Jewish papers on which the news writers struck are Socialist papers. One of them, "Forward," is edited by Abe Cahn, who is out all his spare time shouting for the success of the garment workers' strike. Never has the theory of economic determinism been more successfully proven than in this instance. Never was a man in a more two-faced position.

Cahn, the Socialist, out agitating for the success of the garment workers' strike, and, incidentally, getting a bit of advertising for his sheet! Page after page of "Forward" (notice the suggestive name) given over to the fight of the poor tailors struggling for a living wage and the recognition of their union. "You must win; your fight is just and the progress of humanity demands that this strike be won, and the skin 'em capitalists, the rapacious wolves of greed and rapacity, must be brought to their knees," is the tenor of Cahn and "Forward" in the garment workers' strike.

But what about Cahn and "Forward" in the "Forward" strike? Oh, it was a different story entirely. "It's a trick, a scheme, a deep-laid plot of the vampire garment bosses to destroy the usefulness of 'Forward' to the poor, down-trodden tailors. They want to dictate what we shall publish. They want to run our business. If we agree to their demands the next thing will be they will refuse to write Socialistic matter and won't report the strike correctly. They are in the pay of the capitalist enemies of 'Forward,' who want to kill it." Such was the argument of Cahn, the boss, the capitalist exploiter of poor ill-paid and overworked reporters. The same old dope we have had passed out to us these many, many moons.

I don't know "Comrade" Cahn from a goat. I have heard a lot about him, mostly good. I learn he is a hard-working man, who was once a poor reporter himself, but who, through untiring application, has proven himself one of the "fit," and now enjoys a great distinction and a fat emolument as the editor-in-chief of "Forward," a "Socialist" daily paper, reared from nothing to a sound capitalistic basis, with its own building, plant and all that, by his genius.

As a Socialist and a keen newspaper man, both of which he has proven himself to be, he surely knows that the organization of the news writers is not a new thing. He is certainly aware that "Comrade" Berger enjoys the membership in the Typographical Union he exploits so handsomely through the News Writers' Union of Milwaukee. As an alert student of passing events he must be aware that the present activity in organizing the news writers was stimulated by the recent I. T. U. and A. F. of L. conventions.

I cite all this, not to prove that Cahn is a two-faced liar and a double-vested, Socialist-capitalist exploiter. I have no personal interest in him one way or the other. He is a good husband and all that. My purpose in writing up this matter is to suggest that you cannot ride and walk at the same time, let you be ever so good an acrobat, and that if you persist in trying the stunt you will presently

find yourself neither a-back nor a-foot, but dragging, ingloriously, with your leg caught in the stirrup.

The fact that Cahn signed up with the News Writers' Union in no way affects the facts and comment contained in the article. J. F.

## SYNDICALISM SHOWING ITS FACE.

That progress is pushing its cart along the line swiftly is shown by the action of the Washington State Federation of Labor convention, when it declared flatly for the industrial form of organization. The Syndicalists have hardly begun to work in that state, still the effect of their efforts is clearly apparent, as expressed in resolution No. 3.

The Syndicalists are not so foolish as to think that they are creating the condition and the mental attitude necessary for the acceptance of Syndicalism by the workers. All they claim is to give concrete expression to the condition created by the experience of the toilers through ages of slavery.

When, after months of agitation, a set political program is brought before the workers, as was the case in British Columbia, and that program is flatly turned down, it means something more than mere words; it means much more than the fact that there were some Socialist delegates who opposed it to protect their own party. And when that convention, after rejecting the political program, adopted resolutions declaring for the industrial form of organization and the general strike, the trend of working-class evolution is quite clearly and convincingly shown.

It is up to us who sense this working-class trend to push the propaganda of Syndicalism. We must organize leagues, we must get the propagandists together. We must get our literature into the workers' hands. We must get our speakers and agitators into the unions. We must work, work, work, for now is the time to reap the harvest of a thousand years. The fruit is ripe; let us get together for the picking.

## ARCHBALD, THE EYE-OPENER.

The impeaching of Archbald, the federal judge, is fine propaganda for the disillusionists. Of all the deities we Americans worship none is larger in our reverence than the spotless judiciary. Having no royal family, no king, no dukes or duchesses before whom to prostrate our foolish selves, we selected the judiciary as the most worthy object of our fawning.

In order to strengthen the illusion, to make our self-deception easier, we draped the objects of our worship in gowns of a style that would produce the necessary effect. Then on our knees went we, and all went fine for the courts, for, being incapable of wrong in our eyes, the crudest sort of "rough stuff" was pulled off by them right before our faces.

The graft was so easy they became reckless, and recklessness will spoil any graft in time. Archbald was caught with the goods on him so plentiful, they bulged out of the spacious pockets of the black gown so much, that even the blind could see. He was loaded down so heavily that Congress felt itself incapable to help him get away with the swag. So it did the only logical thing under the circumstances—turned virtuous and took the tools away from so crude a performer.

All you from whose eyes this affair has rubbed the scales away, rise and be counted. Archbald, you are a liberator, and, incidentally and on the side, I am committing a crime against the sacred statutes of the state of Washington, for this true recital of your epoch-making stunt cannot have other than "a tendency to create disrespect for the law and the courts."

## CHICAGO WORKERS STAND PAT.

Chicago, January 22, 1913.

P. H. McCarthy, Convention Building Trades Council of California, Los Angeles, Cal.: \*

Convey to the officers and delegates of the California Building Trades convention the fraternal greetings of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and our unanimous endorsement of the re-election of Tveitmo and Clancy. Organized labor of Chicago joins hands with organized labor of California in protesting to the world the injustice done our brothers in being railroaded to the penitentiary at Leavenworth in the interests of the Steel Trust. Also convey our best wishes and confidence to Darrow.

CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR.

John Fitzpatrick, President.  
E. N. Nockels, Secretary.

## STONE CUTTERS' CONVENTION

The soft stone cutters held their convention at Indianapolis, December 9 to 18, at which the radicals were in the majority.

The convention call in 1911 failed from lack of interest. The 1912 convention was the direct result of a controversy between the general officers—president and general secretary-treasurer. The latter, who was 18 years in office, thought he could lord it over everybody, and attacked the president, who retaliated. Each accused the other of all the crimes on the calendar. This was what aroused the rank and file to a realization of the conditions in the organization. The controversy was brought up at the convention, the rotten conditions shown up—but not published—and both officers resigned. This warmed the blood of the delegates; they tore the mask from everything and swept many dusty traditions into the scrap pile.

The constitution was torn to pieces and barriers thrown down. Only the counsel of the wiser heads prevented them from declaring for a union of all workers in the stone industry; the rank and file of the stone cutters are not yet ready, and at this time it would only result in secession and chaos. They compromised by taking in the bridge and curb cutters and all men operating stone-cutting machinery. It has also been made compulsory for all locals to affiliate with the building trades councils, thus showing we now recognize the advantage of getting together with the other crafts in the cities.

Heretofore we have held aloof from the other workers in the shops and quarries—bridge and curb cutters, planermen, gang and circular sawyers—and fought our battles alone. We have paid dearly for this lesson in the last eight years. We tried to fight the introduction of machinery, which resulted in desertions from our ranks and the formation of a dual union supported by the employers' association. The control of the machines was scoffed at when they were being introduced, competition with the machine and the dual union reduced the organization from 15,000 to about 3,500 in good standing at the last convention. That was the condition that faced the delegates. They rose to the occasion, elected new and progressive officers and threw down the barriers to the unskilled. The rubbers, laborers, tool dressers, derrick and quarry men have but slight difficulties to overcome when they, too, will be lined up with us.

To the uninitiated our apprentice laws appear as a high fence to climb over. It will be so in the cities for some time; but the bridge and curb cutters, who do not serve any regular apprenticeship, will knock them out in a very short time at the quarries, where most of the work is done today.

There are approximately 15,000 soft stone cutters in North America, and about 50,000 men operating stone-cutting machinery. It can be readily seen that the stone cutters will be very much in the minority. The unskilled will soon be in the saddle, and they will not stop short of the final goal.

Backed by the machine men, the stone cutters' (?) organization will be a large factor in the building industry. They will force the granite cutters and marble workers to fall in line, and, like a whirlwind, in their onward sweep they will suck every one of the small crafts in the building industry into their train.

DAVID COUTTS.

## "LET US UNITE."

Let those who think that we are talking up a tree with no fruit on it, read the following quotation from a speech made by a delegate at the Washington state convention of the American Federation of Labor. The subject under discussion was a resolution calling for the industrial form of organization in all industries. It shows the fine grasp of the situation which will in the very near future transform the labor movement into the fighting instrument it must be to cope with the trustification of industry. The resolution, passed almost unanimously, follows:

"Let us unite all organizations in any one industry at least so closely as to prevent us from scabbing on one another. Let us realize that, as it is wrong to erect a building by union labor with non-union made material, so it is wrong for the union railroad employe to haul scab coal, and wrong for the union cook to broil the union meat over scab coal in the restaurant range."

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## B. C. FEDERATION CONVENTION

Third Annual Convention B. C. Federation of Labor, held at Victoria, January 20 to 24, was watched with great interest by the Syndicalists of Vancouver, as its course was marked with incidents of great and grave significance to all the workers of British Columbia.

This convention witnessed an attempt to bring into being a labor party and the fastening of a political program on the labor unions of this province. The attempt failed miserably. It was opposed on all sides and for many reasons. Some of the delegates who voted against the resolutions were firm advocates of political action, but still did not want to commit the B. C. Federation to any political party. Others opposed it because they were members of the Socialist parties and did not want to see a labor party take the field against these parties. Some there were, while believing in the efficacy of political action, were firm in their belief that such matters should be rigorously excluded from the unions.

But what makes this convention different from any convention of the B. C. Federation held in the past was that among the delegates were a number of Syndicalists and they recognized and appraised political action and political parties at their true values; and it is not necessary to state that they strongly opposed the introduction of a political party. A whole day was taken up in discussing and disposing of the officers' report in reference to forming a labor party. This, the Syndicalists felt, was a pure waste of time and could have been more profitably spent on real organization work. A favorable and encouraging sign, however, was to be gleaned in the fact that the consensus of opinion held that the introduction of parliamentary action into the labor unions would be detrimental to their best interest. It is high time that the labor leaders, who have been attempting to make voting machines out of the labor unions, realized that the rank and file will have none of it and that they drop their pet hobbies and personal ambitions and attempt organization work on the industrial field. There is where the worker is robbed and only there can he be organized to fight the exploiters.

Many of the resolutions presented for consideration referred to things that various unions would like to have enacted into laws and embodied in the statutes. This is all very well in a way, but sooner or later the workers will realize that if all their resolutions were to be embodied into laws that labor would not be one bit better off. For eight years they have been recommending and petitioning the government to take heed of their wishes, and today they are no further advanced because of such action.

A resolution re. Industrial Unionism was presented and adopted, as was one for a universal working card. The convention committed the B. C. Federation to a great many progressive policies. Delegate Robinson of the I. B. of E. W. introduced a resolution advocating a general strike in case of war. This was adopted. Quite a change in officers occurred, as Delegates Petipiece, Wilkinson and McVety declined to stand for re-election, but Delegate Midgley, who opposed the formation of a labor party, did stand and was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Taking everything into consideration, the convention was encouraging and great hopes can be entertained for organized labor in this province in the future.

Vancouver, B. C.

E. GILBERT.

## SOCIETY NOTES.

By J. A. Jones.

All-rock drills are built fool-proof, but all men are not fools.

Don't let any timber fall in the chute. It won't pass through the gate.

In America the trust is using sausage skins strung on wire and stuffed with gasoline.

A few drops of sulphuric acid placed on top of a pile of woolen or cotton goods never stops going down.

Two decks of cards in a grain separator covers the screens and causes the grain to vanish out the blower.

A piece of iron dropped in a crucible full of glass will eat through it. Crucibles are made of graphite and cost \$40.

If the relieving holes miss fire, much costly powder in the back holes is burnt up without breaking the ground.

The English suffragettes are voting at the mail boxes. Their "short ballots" consist of red paint and sulphuric acid.

A handful of salt in paint will allow a good-looking job for a day or two, but when dry will fall off in sheets.

Maclay Hoyne, Chicago's district attorney, is analyzing a spontaneous fire powder that allows the user to be miles away when it breaks forth.

Castor oil capsules dissolved in varnish destroys the ability of the latter to dry. The job must be washed down and started all over again.

The suffragettes of England have significantly notified their opponents that a fire in every shire was the way the word was flashed in days gone by.

## A PETITION.

Although, according to law, the Mexican revolutionists, who were railroaded to the federal penitentiary at McNeil's Island, should be entitled to liberty on parole, it is known that Mexican agents are at work to prevent their release. In order to outwit these ghouls rebels are asked to circulate the following petition, and, after securing as many names as possible on it, send it to President Taft: To William H. Taft, The White House, Washington, D. C.

According to the franchise known as "Liberty on Parole," Ricardo Flores Magon, Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera and Anselmo L. Figueroa, members of the Junta Organization of the Mexican Liberal Party ("Junta Organizadora del Partido Liberal Mexicano"), should be liberated from the McNeil Island penitentiary of Washington the coming 28th of February, 1913.

The prison in which these men are suffering, not only punishes them for the violation of the so-called neutrality laws, but even for liberal ideas which they possess and for wishes of the advancement of the revolution stages, when your government will allow politicians to violate the same such laws, as you prove yourself by permitting the coming of the Mexican soldiers to American soil, and allowing Francisco I. Madero and Manuel Bonilla, today presidents of Mexico and Honduras, respectively, to depart from El Paso and New Orleans for their countries at the head of filibuster expeditions.

For that reason I urge from you the complete liberty of said revolutionists, whose permanency in McNeil Island, dressed in convicts' garbs, has placed the United States in the foremost of the odious conversational world.

Name .....

Address .....

Date.....

The Socialists in the Balkan countries are emitting a mournful wail that the war has destroyed their organizations. They claim that fully 90 per cent of the members of the party and unions have been forced into the army. Thus are the Socialists reaping the whirlwind they have sown. For years they have violently opposed every effort of the Syndicalists to organize to meet a declaration of war with a general strike. They declared that they were going to stop war, in a "civilized" way by voting down the war budget. Now they are harvesting the bounteous crop of their idiocy. The same dissolution of the workers' organizations in case of war would also take place in Germany, as they are absolutely unprepared to meet it.

Hundreds of students have been suspended from the Oakland (Cal.) schools because they refuse to be vaccinated. Youth is the ripe age for rebellion.

A woman in New York makes her living by collecting babies from those who don't want them and selling them to those who do, at from \$3 to \$10 each. Puppies bring a bigger price than that. But the human animal is the cheapest thing on the market.

## SYNDICALISM.

When we study the history and growth of the Syndicalist movement we realize that an outstanding feature of it is that it is a reaction against political Socialism. It is a reaction against the deification of the ballot box. If it had no other purpose than the clearing of the unions of the political Socialists' ideas, which it has done in France, that would be sufficient. Those of us who have studied the labor movement in a locality where Socialist ideas predominate realize the tremendous harm inflicted on the labor movement by the Socialist politicians. The Socialist politicians teach a kind of economic fatalism, which they term economic determinism. They spread the idea that if the workers "vote right" every three or more years the God Evolution will one day hand them a co-operative commonwealth. If a locality is poorly organized they apologize for this by saying that conditions will organize the working class. They continuously apologize for the scab—Jack London's pamphlet, "The Scab," being a case in point. In this locality two of the most notorious scabs in the general strike here in June, 1911, were run on the Socialist ticket in the spring of 1912.

The Socialists have enervated all working class activity by teaching that the class struggle takes place on the "astral plane," inside the ballot box, or that the class struggle is fought out by politicians contesting for office—which is a very nice idea for the politicians. The material and moral benefits of all strikes are belittled by them. The recent English coal strike received special attention from them in this direction. Although the Socialist politicians in the unions claim a superior knowledge over the pure and simple trades unionist, yet the latter easily beats them when the practical work of uniting the workers is required.

Syndicalism opposes these ideas of the political Socialists. The Syndicalists realize that a political election is simply the state functioning; that the state is by its very nature an enemy of the workers, and more particularly the relatively militant part of the workers, the trades unions. The history of trade unionism in the last hundred years in any country is a history of conflict with the state. Whether the state was expressed by a Pitt, a Thiers, a Bismarck, a Taft, a Miller or a Briand, the state's attitude was always the same—hostility to the workers limited only by the strength and power of the trade unions.

The Syndicalists realize also that the worker's only hope lies in his combining his trade unions and developing the workers' resistance by continued, everyday struggle. Syndicalism teaches that the class struggle is expressed by the workers fighting for more of the product of their toil by the strike, label, boycott, sabotage and any other effective methods. Syndicalism teaches that the workers must progress faster by relying on their own organized efforts, by ignoring the Socialist politicians, by developing the trade unionism already in existence and by carrying organization to the unorganized.

JOE CUMMINS,  
Vancouver, B. C.

## 'THE FIRST PRINTERS' STRIKE.

It was during the revolutionary war that the printers had their first recorded strike, says an exchange. Times were hard in New York during the British occupancy. Scarcity of provisions forced the cost of living extremely high. A bunch of printers got together one winter's evening to consider the matter of getting a raise. They were working on a paper called Rivington's Gazette. Fixing upon a scale, the record of which is not extant, they submitted it to the employer, whose refusal to accept the measure precipitated a turnout, which lasted for a short time, but terminated in their favor. Having accomplished its purpose, the association forthwith dissolved. Doubtless this was the first strike in the printers' trade in America, and although its issue was successful, it did not prove a means of holding the journeymen together.

Will some one having a copy of the original manifesto and chart of the I. W. W. and a trade journal (name unknown) of 1908, containing an article on the form of organization of the A. F. of L., illustrated with a chart, communicate with J. A. Jones, 1000 South Paulina street, Chicago, Ill.?



## THE REVOLT OF LABOR

Thirty thousand firemen on fifty-four railroads east of Chicago and north of the Potomac River have taken an almost unanimous vote to strike. The railroad dictators are preserving a haughty attitude. 'They seem determined to force the firemen into a strike, refusing all the latter's offers to arbitrate the difficulty. They have notified the firemen that if they strike the roads will be operated "under strike conditions." From all indications at present writing the eastern portion of the United States will shortly become the scene of one of the greatest strikes in railroad history.

The backbones of the railroad kings are stiffened by the knowledge that the railroad workers are divided, and that if the firemen strike all the other railroaders will remain at work, and thus assist in breaking the firemen's strike.

A sop has been thrown to the engineers. They have a "sacred" contract and can be absolutely depended on to remain at work. The trainmen and switchmen fail to see where their interests are identical with those of the firemen, and how much more forcibly both could present their demands if they presented them together. At the present time they are actually waiting until the case of the firemen is settled before they present their demands. The telegraphers are waiting for the trainmen's difficulties to be adjusted, when they in turn will present their demands. And, no doubt, by the remote time the telegraphers are disposed of and the shopmen will be "on the carpet."

The utter folly of all these unions singly presenting their demands, instead of unitedly, as they should, is becoming increasingly evident to even the densest worker, and it's only a matter of a short time until some sort of a federation is organized between the various railroad unions.

If the firemen strike and lose, and they most certainly will lose if they strike, the loss of their strike will probably mark the birth of the railroad workers' federation. But whether the firemen strike or not, the organization of this federation in the near future is inevitable.

One of the most important of recent events in the labor movement is the amalgamation of the plumbers' and steamfitters' unions, which is taking place all over the United States. Thus ends one of the bitterest and most disastrous jurisdictional wars ever waged in the American labor movement. It extended over a period of seventeen years.

Chicago was the scene of the worst battles of this intestine warfare. For years the building trades were kept in a turmoil over it. So frequent were the strikes due to it that a building contractor, when asked during the great discussion following the McNamara confession whether there were chronically warring groups in society, replied, with a certain ridiculous semblance of truth, that the only chronic antagonisms in society were those between the various building trades unions. He said that the differences between employer and employe in the building trades admitted of at least some sort of temporary settlement, whereas those between the various unions were seemingly irreconcilable. He couldn't see a class struggle, but only an inter-union struggle, and his conclusions found some justification in the utter ferocity with which the war between the plumbers and steam fitters was carried on. To such an extent did murder and slugging become a part of it that the unions hired professional thugs to slaughter off their worker-enemies—something they wouldn't think of doing to their capitalist enemies. The famed "death car" was a feature of this warfare. A band of thugs would drive their automobile in broad daylight to some job where their union's interests were being injured. They would "shoot up" and slug the offending workers, and then disappear. This went on for years.

The present amalgamation has put an end to this fratricidal warfare, and every friend of the labor movement will hail it with pleasure. It is also to be hoped that the efforts now being made to bring together the warring factions of electrical workers will be successful.

The Paint and Cabin Creek strike is again occupying the center of the publicity stage. According to the current news items, twenty-five miners and deputy sheriffs were killed in the latest pitched battle between the strikers and company tools. Sev-

eral companies of troops have been ordered to the scene. The miners have entrenched themselves in the hills and have defied anyone to approach within two miles of their camp. Serious hostilities are expected.

The Paint and Cabin Creek strike is undoubtedly one of the most stubbornly contested strikes in the history of the American labor movement. If it were an I. W. W. strike it would be hailed as a young revolution. When the strike is bared of its externals, the reason can be discerned why it has been waged with such unwonted bitterness. Instead of a handful of starved miners fighting against their employers for a larger crust of bread is seen the United Mine Workers fighting the southern coal barons for the right to organize their workers. This is clearly seen, as the U. M. W. of A. is assessing its members 50 cents apiece monthly to support the strike. It means to furnish the striking miners with \$200,000 per month.

The vast bulk of the numerical strength of the U. M. W. of A. lies in the northern coal fields. The great southern coal camps are practically all unorganized. Most of them are indeed little better than peonage camps. The organizer who ventures among them does so at the risk of his life, as the hired gunmen are perpetually patrolling the coal districts on the lookout for U. M. W. of A. organizers.

The unorganized coal miners of the South are a constant menace to the higher standard of living of their organized northern brothers, hence the U. M. W. of A.'s bitter fight at Paint and Cabin Creek for the right to organize them.

Simon O'Donnell, president of the Chicago Building Trades Council, has a brand new scheme to abolish strikes. Everybody is enthusiastic about it, and strikes in the Chicago building trades are now a thing of the past—so they say. The answer is: "Arbitration." Oh, yes. But it seems we have heard that word somewhere before. But then, what's the use of discussing the proposition; the building trades workers will attend to that. This winter has been the best ever known for them, and they can safely be depended upon to be "cocky" enough in the spring to take care of the new-fangled arbitration scheme.

The rebellion against the authority of legislative bodies has broken out afresh. The miners in and around the Scranton district took direct action against the engineers and forced them to line up inside, even though the A. F. of L. convention voted in opposition to such a program. It must be remembered that government rests upon the consent of the governed, and that these engineers working in the mines recognized where they belonged.

The garment workers' strike is pursuing its weary course. The thousands of slaves are pitting their ability to suffer against their masters' ability to abstain from taking profits. Who will be the final victor in the test of endurance remains to be seen. At present writing, reports have it that some of the bosses' associations are weakening and that many firms will grant the strikers' demands within the next few days.

Alexander Aldamas, the New York striker who was charged with practically all the crimes on the calendar because he defended himself in a strike riot, has been convicted and sentenced to one year and six months. This is a much lighter sentence than was expected. The remaining indictments against Aldamas will probably be dropped.

The long-threatened strike of the officers of the Interisland Steamship Company's vessels has begun at Honolulu. Twenty captains and mates have sent in their resignations. In anticipation of the strike the company imported from the mainland fourteen licensed captains to serve as scabs.

The A. F. of L. waiters and the international hotel workers got together in Albany, N. Y., and whipped the bosses. This coming together was of the rank and file. What we want is more of it. What we lack is education of the men on the job.

The hobos in convention at New Orleans refused to indorse Socialism. Are they ahead of it or behind it?

## A DOCUMENT OF SHAME.

During the recent excitement over a possible general European war "Die Salzburger Wacht," an official organ of the German Social-Democratic Party, printed an article on the Turkish-Italian peace treaty, which shows the practical attitude of Socialists toward war and patriotism. We quote from it:

"Italy outlined, in advance, its plans in finest detail for the war with Turkey and, also, on occasion, demonstrated to the world its fighting ability and patriotic enthusiasm. During the hubbub of the war the enthusiasm and confidence of Italy and its people gave an "impetus" to the powers to put Italy's credit on a substantial basis. So successful was this that during the whole war Italy's credit did not receive a single shock. A panic in Italy was unknown, thanks to the patriotism of the Italians and also the actions of the Social-Democratic Party of Italy, which of its own accord joined with the other political parties and thus gave a strong impetus to the patriotic fellowship."

Herr von Vollman, Socialist representative in the Bavarian Senate, voices his opinion of the matter as follows: "We, here in Germany, may well observe the attitude of the Social Democratic party of Italy in combining with the other political parties. In this wise the Italian people could present a solid front to the Powers and prevent their unfavorable interference. Even the priestcraft of Italy, which heretofore had kept in the background of political neutrality, was carried away by it."—Translated by C. Richman.

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